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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

MICROFILMED NR

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(26 August-1 September 1977)

NR [redacted]

This compilation is prepared weekly by the Office of Regional and Political Analysis. Inquiries may be directed to [redacted] 3.5(c) *the International Issues Division,* [redacted] 3.5(c)

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Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00201433

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Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00201433

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LATIN AMERICA

-- The Catholic Church in Brazil reportedly is moderately pleased with efforts by top level government and military officials to curb human rights abuses. The US stand on human rights is seen as having been instrumental in motivating improvements. *Brazilian churchmen apparently believe that President Geisel and other key leaders are sincere in their efforts to improve Brazil's human rights performance, but the clerics remain disturbed over continuing abuses and they are not overly sanguine about prospects for halting unauthorized actions by middle and lower level security officials.*

-- Argentine President Videla recently told Assistant Secretary of State Todman that the Argentine military is committed to returning the country to a thoroughly representative democracy. Videla admitted, however, that several recent dramatic

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disappearances are the result of some elements of the security forces being beyond the government's control. *As the antiterrorism campaign winds down, human rights abuses and violence resulting from inter- and intra- service rivalries are becoming more apparent. The abduction of the Argentine ambassador to Venezuela remains unsolved, as does the disappearance of a prominent labor leader several months ago and of a number of lawyers more recently. The government is indeed unable to control the activities of certain factions within its own ranks. Rivalries within the power structure also played a role in Argentina's decision this week to cancel its participation in UNITAS XVIII, an upcoming joint Naval exercise with the US. Military hardliners had severely criticized Videla for being too accommodating to recent US official visitors, and they apparently seized on the UNITAS-US security assistance issue to undermine the president's prestige.*

-- Spanish Socialist Party leader Felipe Gonzalez visited Chile this week and said that the situation there is "not as black and white" as it is pictured abroad. Gonzalez was cordially received by government leaders and was allowed to speak freely with whomever he chose, including the two prominent prisoners for whom he sought pardons. *The liberal press in Spain has been vitriolic in its attacks on the Chilean regime and it frequently blames the US for the fall of President Allende. There are conflicting signals, meanwhile, as to whether the state of siege in Chile will be lifted to mark the fourth anniversary of the military takeover on September 11, and there still is considerable uncertainty over the extent to which the new National Information Center will differ from the recently abolished National Intelligence Directorate, which was notorious for conduct resulting in human rights abuses.*

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Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00201433

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